



DARK ENERGY
SURVEY

DOE FY2008 Congressional Budget Request

- Excerpt from the FY2008 Budget request sent to the MC:
Fabrication of the Dark Energy Survey (DES) Project.
The FY 2008 request includes a new Major Item of Equipment, the Dark Energy Survey (DES) project. This effort will provide the next step in determining the nature of dark energy, which is causing the universe to expand at an accelerating rate, by measuring the distances to approximately 300 million galaxies. DES employs several methods to measure the effects of dark energy on the distribution of these galaxies and other astrophysical objects.



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DOE FY2008 Congressional Budget Request (cont'd)

- Excerpt from the FY2008 Budget request sent to the MC (cont'd):

The DES scientific collaboration will begin fabrication of a new charge coupled device (CCD) camera and associated lenses, electronics and data management system to be installed on the Blanco Telescope at the CTIO in Chile. The project is planned as a partnership between DOE and the NSF, which operates the telescope. The scientific collaboration is led by Fermilab and includes participants from laboratories and universities in the U.S., England and Spain. Funding for fabrication in FY 2008 is contingent on successful scientific and technical readiness reviews by the interested funding agencies.



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Caveat to the MC on the FY2008 Budget Request

The language in Congressional Budget Request puts DES on a very good road to the promised land; but we aren't there. The last sentence in the paragraph above is very important. It clearly states we are not approved until we successfully pass the review process of DOE and NSF and we do not get the money until Congress appropriates the money.

The next step in the review process is the joint DOE-NSF CD-1 Review of DES.



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Status of preparations for the joint DOE-NSF CD-1 Review

Dates: May 1-3 are on the schedule

Charge and expectations: Kathy Turner and Nigel Sharp continue to discuss these matters.

Difference between the processes used by NSF and the DOE to make a decision on whether or not to approve DES may be contributing to the difficulty of reaching an agreement.

I hope that they will provide us a charge and expectations by the end of February.

Each project must provide a CDR and a PEP/PMP (in the style of VERITAS) and the project must be tied together through a single, coherent management structure.



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DECAM Optics CDR

- Location and Dates: Fermilab; March 15-16
- Scope: Optical design and the mechanical design of the lens mounts and corrector barrel.
- Purpose: Is DES is ready to award a contract for the glass blanks from a technical perspective?
- Reviewers:
Dan Fabricant (Harvard-Smithsonian), Darren Depoy (Ohio State), George Jacoby (Director WIYN), Robert Upton (NOAO-ATST)
- Other considerations: Will the donors be willing to risk funds in the absence of full approval of DES? How will DOE view such a purchase prior to full approval?